

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 180

By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to recognize Philip A. Condra on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of the General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Philip A. Condra is one such estimable person who served with distinction for twenty-one years as the District Public Defender for the 12th Judicial District, from his appointment by Governor McWherter in 1989 to his retirement in December 2010; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Condra was born in the Red Hill Community of North Marion County on July 23, 1944; and

WHEREAS, he graduated from the University of the South (Sewanee) in 1966, from which he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree and from which he graduated with honors and as a Phi Beta Kappa inductee and, during his time at the school, he participated in intercollegiate athletics and was a recipient of the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Condra continued his education, earning a master's degree in history from Southern Methodist University in 1968, which he attended as a recipient of an HEW Fellowship for graduate study, and he attended the University of Tennessee College of Law, during which time he served as a staff member of the Tennessee Law Review, a member of the National Moot Court Team and Order of the Coif, and he graduated in the top ten percent of his class in 1972; and

WHEREAS, from 1968-70, Phil Condra taught Freshman English at Montgomery Bell Academy in Nashville, which he also served as a football, baseball, and wrestling coach; and

WHEREAS, prior to his admirable career as a district public defender, Mr. Condra served as an attorney in Oak Ridge from 1973-78, as a staff attorney for the Tennessee Valley Authority from 1978-80, and as an attorney in Dunlap from 1980-89; and

WHEREAS, Phil Condra has graciously donated his time and energies to numerous organizations: he was a member of the Tennessee Bar Association and the Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, he served as County Commissioner in Sequatchie County from 1987-89, and he served as a “pilot” public defender in Anderson County in 1976; and

WHEREAS, committed to the laudable principles of public service, Philip Condra has served on the Executive Committee for the Public Defenders Conference in several positions, including as president, vice president, secretary and treasurer, east representative, and various other committee assignments throughout his distinguished tenure as a district public defender; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Condra has spent his legal career dedicated to the proposition that due process and equal justice are not mere words, but are the foundation of our society; and

WHEREAS, his innumerable civic and professional accomplishments aside, Phil Condra is deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavors to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Condra is most thankful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Carrie, and their four children, Brad, Jill, Laci, and Michael; and

WHEREAS, Philip Condra epitomizes the spirit of volunteerism and commitment to excellence that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his estimable career, Mr. Condra has demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his colleagues and community; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Philip Condra for his meritorious service to the good people of the State of Tennessee and extend to him our heartfelt wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.